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Wednesday, 23 November 2011, 9.30 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Portas	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Alkalaj
	Brazil	Mrs. Crivano Machado
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Ms. Londoño
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Mashabane
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

Maintenance of international peace and security

New challenges to international peace and security and conflict prevention

Letter dated 8 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2011/698)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Maintenance of international peace and security

New challenges to international peace and security and conflict prevention

Letter dated 8 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2011/698)

The President: Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Mr. António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and Ms. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, who is joining today's meeting via video teleconference from Geneva.

I wish to warmly welcome the Secretary-General, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Vice-Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil and the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs of Colombia. Their participation in this meeting is an affirmation of the importance of the subject matter to be addressed.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/698, which contains a letter dated 8 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I thank the Portuguese presidency for focusing the Security Council's attention on three of the defining challenges of our times: transnational organized crime, pandemics and climate change. I also thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal for taking the time to preside over this very important meeting.

None of these challenges is new. What is new, however, is that they are increasingly transnational, increasingly acute and have ever greater implications for human, State, regional and international security. They are increasingly transnational because of the growing ease with which people, goods and money can cross borders.

The recent movie *Contagion* was more science than fiction. Organized crime groups are particularly adept at exploiting the openness of globalization to traffic humans, drugs and weapons. Climate change is the quintessential global challenge. These threats are also increasingly acute because the combined stresses of crime, pandemics and climate change are pushing many poor and fragile countries close to the breaking point.

Some have seen their life expectancy cut in half by HIV/AIDS — a horrible toll not only on families and loved ones, but also on the labour force, businesses, the civil service and the armed forces.

Organized crime groups use corruption and violence to hollow out weak institutions from the inside. In addition, the extreme weather and other consequences associated with climate change are exacerbating already difficult struggles with desertification, drought, floods and volatility in food prices.

By undermining State capacity and State institutions, these threats have clear and increasing implications for peace and security. As the World Bank pointed out earlier this year in its *World Development Report*, countries affected by violence are home to 43 per cent of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Criminal groups, in their efforts to control trafficking routes, spread fear and insecurity, and, in some cases, have triggered the outbreak of political violence. Today, many more people die as the result of criminal and gang violence than in civil wars. We are seeing an increasing convergence between organized crime and terrorist groups. Climate change, in some regions, has aggravated conflict over scarce land and could well trigger large-scale migration in the decades ahead. In addition, rising sea levels put at risk the very survival of all small island States. These and other implications for peace and security also have implications for the United Nations itself.

First, no country and no region, no matter how powerful, will be able to address these threats alone. They can be addressed only through regional and global cooperation. The United Nations will continue to play a lead role in fostering such cooperation.

Secondly, these are complex and multilayered threats that require multidisciplinary responses. The United Nations is well placed to promote an integrated mix of political, development and capacity-building responses. All present here have heard me talk about connecting the dots among energy, food, health, disaster risk reduction and other issues in our response to climate change. That idea is relevant to today's discussion as well. We are all aware of the risk that a warming world will facilitate the spread of deadly diseases.

But there are other links as well. In some parts of the world, drug trafficking has led to an increase in intravenous drug use. This, in turn, has become one of the main drivers in the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Our response to crime, meanwhile, cannot be limited to law enforcement. It must encompass public health, institution-building and human rights. Our economic and social development efforts must become more crime-sensitive. More broadly, it is crucial to address the social inequalities and economic injustice that give rise to frustration and unrest. Ultimately, security must be rooted in opportunity, freedom and hope.

I am pleased that at this meeting, the Council will hear from my colleagues António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and Ms. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UNODC have constructive ties with the Security Council. At the same time, there is ample room to increase contact with WHO, and I hope the Council will pursue this.

I thank the Council again for addressing such issues. As the nature of the threats that we face continues to evolve, the Council, so central to our ability to keep the peace, must also keep pace.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Yury Fedotov.

Mr. Fedotov: I welcome this opportunity to brief the Security Council on the multifaceted nature of the transnational organized crime and trafficking in drugs that are undermining security in many regions and evolving into major threats to political and social stability, the rule of law, human rights and economic development. In recognition of that global challenge, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is raising awareness and mobilizing multilateral action to deliver as one.

Earlier this year, the Secretary-General invited UNODC to co-chair the United Nations system-wide task force on organized crime and drug trafficking. The heads of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization, Mr. Guterres and Ms. Chan, are strong and active partners in those collective efforts.

We work closely with them, as well as with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the United Nations Development Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, INTERPOL, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the World Bank, among many others, to create a multidisciplinary response in areas such as piracy, drugs, the illegal trade in small arms, corruption, illicit money flows, human trafficking and crime involving wildlife.

We also build partnerships with the private sector and civil society. Our comprehensive and concerted approach is underpinned by UNODC's guardianship of the United Nations conventions on corruption, drug control and transnational organized crime.

UNODC's strength lies in its ability to deliver operational results in the field. We have developed a series of regional programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Those programmes support an integrated approach, linking the local to the regional and the global.

Regarding the Middle East and North Africa region in particular, UNODC's most urgent priority is to assist post-Arab Spring countries in their progress towards democracy and the rule of law. To that end, based on our existing capacities in that region and building upon new ones, we are refocusing our

Regional Programme for the Arab States to adequately address the new realities.

UNODC is already working closely with the authorities in Egypt and Tunisia and is developing a national programme with Libya. There is much to be done in that region in terms of strengthening the rule of law, criminal justice, police reform, combating corruption, assisting in the recovery of misappropriated funds, fighting against human trafficking and illicit migration, and terrorism prevention.

Combating piracy off the coast of Somalia by providing assistance to countries in the region to prosecute and jail convicted pirates remains our foremost priority. At the same time, the illicit money flows produced by piracy must be dealt with in a more meaningful way. We need also to address the growing threat of an upsurge in pirate attacks in West Africa, in particular off the coast of Benin. The United Nations inter-agency assessment mission, co-led by DPA and UNODC, that the Secretary-General recently dispatched to Benin and Nigeria will certainly help to develop a tailored, comprehensive and effective anti-piracy strategy for the region.

The impact of transnational cocaine trafficking has had a devastating effect on both sides of the Atlantic. In Europe, in particular, the volume of cocaine consumed has doubled over the past decade. Our Latin American/Caribbean programmes are dealing with the issue, but we are also working hard to assist in the promotion of a collective response among the West African countries. UNODC has drawn attention to West Africa's vulnerability as a transit route for cocaine on a number of occasions. There is a need for the international community to focus on that pressing issue. UNODC's Regional Programme for West Africa 2010-2014 was developed to support the ability of the regional action plan of the Economic Community of West African States to address the growing problem of illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa.

Afghanistan, and its surrounding countries, is another key region where UNODC works to combat the transnational threat of drugs. The latest news is hardly encouraging. After the drastic decline in 2010 over the previous high production levels, due, mostly, to the opium plant disease, poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has increased by 7 per cent this year. In the same period, the amount of opium produced increased by 61 per cent, from 3,600 metric tons to 5,800 metric tons. There are now only 17 provinces that have a poppy-free status, compared to 20 in 2010. As a result, production levels may be heading in the direction of the previous high levels seen before 2010.

In Afghanistan, the farm-gate value of opium production alone is equivalent to around 10 per cent of the country's gross domestic product. Opium therefore makes up a significant part of the Afghan economy, and provides funding to terrorism and insurgency, while fuelling corruption. That situation cannot last forever. The time has come for a more results-oriented response to the challenge that is based on concrete action and shared responsibility.

I hope that the fifth Triangular Initiative Ministerial Meeting, which is scheduled for 28 November in Kabul, will help to agree new measures among the region's States and to ensure that the Afghan Government accepts counter-narcotics as a national priority. UNODC will launch a regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries on 7 December. That is an initiative in which we all have a shared stake. I hope that I will be able to report on the first results of our efforts to the third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact, to be held in Vienna on 16 February 2012.

While continuing our efforts to reduce the supply of drugs, we must also focus on demand reduction and the prevention of drug addiction. UNODC recognizes that drug use and drug dependence are health issues, which include HIV and AIDS, and must be addressed in full compliance with the conventions on drug control that form our profound commitment to the promotion of human rights and the rule of law. Young people are particularly vulnerable. UNODC's global programme concerning children exposed to drugs addresses the issue of drugs in early childhood. Starting in Afghanistan, the programme will soon be extended to West Africa and Latin America.

We must appreciate, as well, that transnational organized crime and drug trafficking are also development issues, requiring a sustained approach and the long-term commitment of all partners. At the core of our multilateral response must be a policy to help build the capacities of fragile or weak States, while assisting with the defences of neighbouring countries and the long-term development of criminal justice systems.

To conclude, I would like to commend the Portuguese presidency for its initiative in organizing this meeting of the Security Council, and all Council members for their support of UNODC. My Office stands ready to further brief the Council on all issues relevant to its important responsibilities in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The President: I thank Mr. Fedotov for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. António Guterres.

Mr. Guterres: Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation for this opportunity to address the Security Council.

The past 12 months have witnessed many momentous, often disturbing and sometimes inspiring, events. On the one hand, many of those events have confronted the Security Council with enormous challenges in its efforts to maintain international peace and security. On the other hand, they have required my own Office to respond to a succession of emergencies, providing protection and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons, often in the most hazardous operational environments. It is in that context of mutual endeavour that I would like to turn to the theme of the presentation that I was asked to give today, which is that of human displacement and climate change.

We live in a world that is on the move. Information, ideas, capital, culture and people are all crossing borders at a much greater speed than at any previous time in history. Furthermore, with respect to the movement of human beings, patterns of migration, mobility and displacement are changing. Increasingly, the traditional distinction between migrants, who cross borders in search of a better life, and refugees, who are forced to flee persecution and conflict, has become blurred. More and more people are forced to flee while remaining within the borders of their own country, or do so for reasons that are not covered by the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. As they lose their livelihoods and coping mechanisms to environmental degradation, they often find themselves with no option but to move on. In many parts of the world, refugees, asylum seekers, irregular migrants and the victims of human smugglers and traffickers are following the same routes, are making use of the same means of transport and are confronted with the same risks and dangers, especially when travelling by sea.

The patterns of movement are changing, but meanwhile, the scale of human displacement is also growing. Looking at the statistics of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in themselves — and they refer only to refugees from conflict and those internally displaced by conflict — last year we witnessed a count of 43.7 million people, a record high that is, as I said, only part of the picture of displacement. It is not difficult to understand why so many people abandon their usual place of residence and flee in search of safety elsewhere: persecution, violence, authoritarian rule, failures of governance, economic collapse and natural disasters. One only has to look at the tragic case of Somalia to see how all of those different factors can coexist and combine, with the appalling outcome that more than a quarter of that country's citizens have now been uprooted.

In that context, a principal reality of the contemporary world is the accelerating pace of climate change, as well as the international community's failure to address that issue in an effective manner. Climate change is the defining challenge of our times, one that interacts with and reinforces the other global mega-trends, such as population growth; urbanization; growing food, water and energy insecurity; and the risk of pandemics. It is a challenge that is adding to the scale and complexity of human displacement, and one that has important implications for the maintenance of international peace and security. Let me elaborate on that statement.

Recent years have seen the publication of many books and articles that speculate on the number of people who will be forced to move in the next two or three decades as a result of climate change. Twenty million? Fifty million? One hundred million? There seems to be no consensus on the matter. That is, perhaps, because the wrong question is being asked. Climate change is not an independent variable, a phenomenon that can be examined in isolation from the many other economic, social, political and ecological processes that determine the level of human security available to people in different parts of the world. In that respect, there is little value in posing the simplistic question of how many people are going to be displaced by climate change. Instead, we should be addressing the more complex issue of the way in which global warming, rising sea levels, changing weather patterns and other manifestations of climate change are

interacting with and reinforcing other global imbalances so as to produce some very powerful drivers of instability, conflict and displacement. I would like to highlight four of those linkages.

First, the process of climate change is constraining the amount of land available for cultivation in many developing countries and is simultaneously reducing agricultural productivity. Confronted with growing levels of poverty and food insecurity, more and more young people are making their way from rural to urban areas, and massive youth unemployment, together with volatile food and commodity prices, is proving to be a clear source of social and political unrest.

Secondly, climate change is reinforcing the potential for conflict within and between States by intensifying the level of competition for scarce resources, including water, grazing land and arable land. Many commentators have pointed to the potential for so-called water wars over transboundary freshwater reserves, which could clearly uproot large numbers of people. Researchers at universities such as the University of California at Berkeley, Stanford, New York University and Harvard, looking at rainfall and temperature records in Africa between 1980 and 2002, have indicated that global warming is strongly related to the incidence of armed conflict, with a one-degree temperature rise increasing the potential for conflict by 50 per cent. I believe it is probably too early to assume that such scientific quantifications are foolproof, but the linkage is clearly there.

Thirdly, there is increasing evidence to suggest that the growing frequency and intensity of natural disasters is closely linked to the process of climate change. According to a recent estimate, more than 40 million people were uprooted by natural disasters in 2010 alone, most of them internally displaced in the developing world.

Fourthly, as the representative of an organization that has a mandated responsibility for both refugees and stateless persons, I would like to mention the linkage between climate change and citizenship. Some small island States are confronted with rising sea levels and are becoming highly vulnerable to extreme weather events. Where will these people go if and when it becomes impossible for them to remain in their own country? Some may be able to acquire a second nationality, once they have been obliged to move. But how will they retain their national identity? Is the world ready to accept the idea of a State without a territory? These are questions that the international community has only just started to consider and that now require serious attention.

Although many might argue that climate change does not fall within the competency of the Security Council, the linkages I have set out here today cannot be ignored when looking at matters of peace and security. In a world that is becoming smaller and smaller and is, for the first time, facing physical limits to economic growth, those threats can only grow. The strands that make up this complex picture — climate change, population growth, food insecurity and water scarcity — are the subject of many separate summits and debates, but the international community has no forum today that allows for a comprehensive discussion of and comprehensive response to those trends. I firmly believe that in one way or another that governance gap has to be closed.

At the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, there was broad consensus that the communities most likely to be affected by the consequences of climate change are those that bear the least responsibility for its acceleration. Populations in developing countries are also more exposed to disasters and less able to cope with their effects. When we look at today's bleak picture for mitigation efforts, it is evident that a massive programme of support is essential in order to reinforce the proven resilience of their communities and citizens. Such action should take full account of the fact that women, especially poor women, are most seriously affected by climate change and natural disasters.

But even if we mobilize the international community in this way, it seems unlikely that we will be able to do enough to avert human displacement completely. Indeed, mobility seems likely to be one of the adaptation strategies employed by populations affected by climate change. That is why I believe that it would be appropriate for the international community to formulate and adopt a set of principles specifically designed to reinforce the protection of and find solutions for people who have been forced to leave their own country as a result of catastrophic environmental events but who may not qualify for refugee status under international law. UNHCR will be hosting an intergovernmental event at the ministerial level in Geneva in two weeks' time, where we will

examine such protection gaps affecting the forcibly displaced people of the world.

Finally, let me underline the importance of integrating the issues of climate change and human displacement into all of our conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding endeavours, including the participation of the forcibly displaced in both peace talks and political solutions. People should not be obliged to abandon their homes in order to survive. Once they have been uprooted, they must be given our full support in finding sustainable solutions to their plight. Providing such support is a humanitarian imperative, but it is also in our common interest. If climate change goes unchecked and if we fail to find sustainable solutions for displaced populations, we will be creating the conditions in which further breaches of international peace and security are certain to take place.

The President: I thank Mr. Guterres for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ms. Margaret Chan.

Ms. Chan: I am sorry that I cannot participate at this meeting in person.

I deeply appreciate this opportunity to brief the Council, with full respect for the many heavy burdens on its members' shoulders. The Council is looking at new challenges to peace and security and at ways to prevent conflict. I do not intend to make the Council's burden heavier by suggesting a long list of health problems that should be placed under the Council's watch.

Many health problems addressed by the World Health Organization (WHO) cause deep human misery; several clearly deepen poverty. But most do not directly threaten peace and security, and rarely contribute to conflict. I shall therefore concentrate on a few recent health trends that worry me personally the most. These trends are part of what is happening in the world at large, where health nearly everywhere is being shaped by the same powerful, almost universal, forces — such as ageing populations, the movement of people within and between countries, rapid urbanization and the globalization of unhealthy lifestyles, including substance abuse, and, of course, climate change.

Why are they new? They are new because they arise from this century's unprecedented interdependence and connectivity. The affairs and fates of nations are intertwined as never before. Crises are increasingly broadening their impact. They are highly contagious and profoundly unfair, frequently damaging countries that had nothing to do with the causes.

The world is becoming dangerously out of balance. That worries me. Annual Government expenditures on health range from as little $1 per person to nearly $7,000 per person. The difference in life expectancy between the richest and the poorest countries now exceeds 40 years.

The rising costs of health care worry me, as there are an estimated 2.7 billion people living in countries with no safety net to cover medical costs. For a family living on the fringes, selling the main household asset, such as a cow, to pay for health care means ruin. WHO estimates that 100 million people are driven below the poverty line each year because of catastrophic medical bills.

Infectious diseases worry me, especially new diseases with pandemic potential. In this year alone, WHO has investigated nearly 400 rumours of acute threats to health, mostly from infectious diseases. Of those, only 34 were false alarms, such as rumours of small pox or anthrax cases. Seventy-six were judged to be of low risk to international health. But 230 were major events, such as Ebola outbreaks, multiple outbreaks that threaten to destabilize flooded Pakistan, and 54 cases and 29 deaths from the highly infectious bird flu.

Conflicts worry me, as they are the perfect breeding ground for outbreaks and malnutrition and a perfect setting for the violation of human rights, especially when sexual violence is used as a weapon.

Public misconceptions also worry me, such as the belief that vaccines are dangerous. That is why we have seen large outbreaks of measles that never should have happened, especially in countries with a well-educated public.

Those are some of my top worries. For some of them, I have good news to report. In the past decade, after the fuel, food and financial crises, the issue of governance was hotly debated. For the financial crisis, analysts cited a failure of governance, oversight and risk management at every level of the system. Since the start of this century, WHO and its member States have been managing internationally shared health risks

through the development of new global governance regimens. We have the International Health Regulations, revised after the outbreak of acute respiratory syndrome in 2003. They moved from a reactive response to outbreaks at borders and points of entry to a proactive response aimed at snuffing out a threat at its source, before it had a chance to spread internationally.

The International Health Regulations adopt an all-hazards approach and are on the look out for any acute event where people suddenly fall ill, whether because of infections, food poisoning or exposure to toxic chemicals or radiological materials. Solid background information on what is usual for a season or area make it easier to detect the unusual, such as illness caused by a new pathogen or caused by terrorism.

WHO gleans intelligence about potential outbreaks from constant worldwide electronic surveillance and responds through the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, which draws experts from more than 300 technical institutions. Many are in the countries of members of the Council. I therefore want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for their contribution.

We are also drawing on many high-level biosecurity laboratories, as we have a new framework that sets our obligations for the sharing of viruses, influence of viruses and of the benefits, such as medicines and vaccines during an influenza pandemic. That is the newest governance instrument, approved just last May, by the World Health Assembly.

The negotiations behind the framework were the most intense and potentially explosive that I have ever seen during my 35 years in public health. But in a spirit of consensus and fair play, member States eventually produced a square deal for everybody, including the pharmaceutical industry. These new governance regimes tell us what countries really want. They want collective security against shared threats. They want risks to be proactively managed, with an emphasis on prevention. They want rules of proper, responsible conduct. They want fairness — a square deal for everybody.

I have one final point. This year's protests in the Middle East have captured world attention and toppled some Governments. Many analysts saw those events as uprisings against inequalities in income levels and opportunities, especially for youth. Some experts now believe that greater equality must become the new economic and political imperative for a stable and more secure world. I have no idea if that will happen. Personally, I would welcome such a policy imperative with open arms. Prevention is the heart of public health, and equity is the soul.

The President: I thank Ms. Chan for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Alkalaj (Bosnia and Herzegovina): I would like to commend you, Foreign Minister Portas, for organizing this important meeting. I also thank Mr. Yuri Fedotov, Mr. António Guterres and Ms. Margaret Chan for their comprehensive briefings.

The modern world is in a process of constant change. That inevitably brings new global challenges, some of which have the potential to pull entire regions into conflict. The Security Council's growing focus on the evolving nature of challenges in recent times signifies that a comprehensive and combined approach is needed to maintain international peace and security. In light of that, this debate is particularly important as an opportunity to assess possible ways of addressing those issues.

Transnational organized crime, as one of the new threats to peace and security, flourishes in environments lacking adequate State authorities. It uses the advances in globalization to undermine State institutions, thus creating increased vulnerability and instability. Organized crime represents a threat not only to democracy, the rule of law, human rights and socio-economic development but also to peace and security. In that regard and bearing in mind the important role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the development assistance community should continue to support UNODC in its efforts to help improve criminal justice systems in vulnerable countries, especially in Africa. The Security Council should continue to promote cooperation between UNODC and different parts of the United Nations Secretariat aimed at addressing the cross-cutting nature of organized crime. We furthermore consider the strengthening of international, regional and subregional cooperation to be of paramount importance in combating transnational organized crime.

In an increasingly interconnected world, growing populations and the increasing demand for resources can generate social tensions, political unrest or even conflict. In that context, possible the link between climate change and security risks should be taken into consideration. The adverse impact of climate change can contribute to aggravating existing threats to international peace and security. The Security Council should therefore be aware of the possible security implications of climate change, including potential humanitarian crises, migration pressures and external shocks, on States heavily affected by climate change.

Relevant United Nations bodies should strengthen their capacity to deal with crises resulting from climate change, focusing their efforts on predicting, preventing and handling climate change-related issues. The importance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change cannot be overemphasized, as it calls for the widest possible cooperation by all States.

Conditions of violence and instability can exacerbate the spread of diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria, by increasing the risk of exposure through large movements of people, widespread uncertainty, reduced access to medical care and conflict-related sexual violence. Populations fleeing conflict areas, displaced persons and refugees in camp settings are particularly vulnerable. At the same time, the spread of diseases has a negative impact on all sectors of society, as well as on peace and security.

Peacekeeping operations and their personnel can play an important role in disease prevention in post-conflict settings, especially in raising HIV awareness. In that regard, we commend efforts by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to educate and train peacekeepers in gender awareness, child protection and the ability to recognize and respond to sexual violence and exploitation.

Complementarity and cooperation among United Nations bodies and agencies are needed in efforts to prevent the spread of diseases. The Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies, such as the United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF and the World Health Organization, need to harmonize their activities and work closely with local communities targeting vulnerable categories.

We wish to emphasize that the primary responsibility in identifying priorities and strategies for potential challenges to international peace and security rests with the States concerned. If countries lack knowledge or resources, the role of the United Nations and international and regional organizations is to support and complement the functions and activities of national Governments, as appropriate.

International and regional organizations and United Nations agencies should continue to monitor situations that pose potential risks to civilian populations and peace and security. Appropriate planning and design of strategies to mitigate those challenges must be a priority, particularly in light of the importance of conflict prevention. Sufficient and appropriate funding also needs to be provided.

Cooperation at the international, regional and sub-regional levels is crucial in addressing cross-border challenges. The implementation and further development of international instruments will assist countries in tackling the various security challenges.

As the main body responsible for international peace and security, the Security Council should be receptive to warning signs of potential threats. Timely decision-making processes should be based on verified and reliable information, so that the measures imposed can be effective. Strengthening cooperation between the Council and relevant regional and subregional organizations will give more importance to those issues and keep them constantly on their agendas.

We firmly believe that the Security Council is committed to addressing challenges that may arise and to seeking solutions for the threats discussed today. This debate is an expression of our collective determination to maintain international peace and security. For its part, Bosnia and Herzegovina remains strongly committed to that aim and stands ready to give its full contribution.

Mrs. Machado (Brazil) (*spoke in Portuguese; English text provided by the delegation*): At the outset, allow me to congratulate the Portuguese delegation for the manner in which it has guided the work of this Council. Its dedication to transparency and to the involvement of all of the members of the Council and the Organization in this body's work is a testament to

Portugal's commitment to the strengthening of multilateralism.

In that regard, we understand the usefulness of this stock-taking of the Security Council's engagement with issues that have not traditionally been on its agenda. The concept note circulated by your delegation (S/2011/6668, annex) is informative in recalling the recent history of that engagement.

(*spoke in English*)

I am grateful to the Secretary-General for his useful comments. I also welcome the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Executive Director Yury Fedotov, High Commissioner António Guterres, and Director-General Margaret Chan, and I thank them for their very interesting briefings.

The large number of thematic debates and briefings that the Council has held over the past few years has demonstrated that Member States are interested in engaging with the complex and interrelated nature of global security challenges. It is not enough to address only the most obvious and immediate face of threats. The Council has been clear regarding the need for a long-term view, which takes into account both preventive actions and post-conflict efforts to build truly sustainable peace.

However, there is the unavoidable issue of legitimate action and potential encroachment. The issue of Security Council encroachment on the prerogatives of other United Nations bodies, in particular the General Assembly, still worries a number of delegations, including my own. The Council must recognize and pay attention to the fact that a significant number of Member States continue to be uneasy at the political and legal implications of Council engagement on issues such as climate change.

Faced with that scenario, our only alternative is the path of genuine dialogue with the larger membership and of extreme care in treating thematic issues as direct threats to international peace and security. A legitimate way to advance the discussion without raising concerns is to highlight and explore how the Council's security work can be better integrated with the development and human rights work of other actors. That is the approach we took in promoting our debate on the interdependence of security and development in February.

I will give two concrete examples. First of all, the Security Council must have access to a greater scope of information. Even though it does not deal directly with economic, environmental or health issues, the Council must know where those issues exist and the specific way in which they interact with the security situation in each specific situation on its agenda. The presidential statements on development (S/PRST/2011/4) and on the possible security implications of climate change (S/PRST/2011/15) have language along those lines.

Secondly, in every thematic area, the Council must work harder to understand the operational issues that hamper the integration of the various aspects of the reality on the ground. Certainly, the Secretariat must do a better job of internal coordination and of cooperating with the agencies, funds and programmes. However, Member States must also work harder to ensure the consistency of the guidance that they give through the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Executive Boards and other organs.

Over the past few months, my delegation has had the opportunity to discuss, in this Chamber, our position on the links between security and such issues as organized crime, HIV/AIDS and the adverse impact of climate change. Today, I will briefly reiterate our position on the last of those issues.

There are clear links between climate change and development and between security and development. The possible security implications of climate change are far less obvious. In most cases, the exacerbation of existing disputes resulting from the effects of climate change arises from the lack of financial and technological resources for adaptation.

That underlines the need for political, economic and humanitarian approaches to those issues. While security tools are appropriate to deal with specific threats to international peace and security, they are ill-suited to facing climate change. Effectively fighting climate change and dealing with its myriad implications must be a priority for the international community. That underscores the importance of redoubling our efforts to achieve ambitious results in international negotiations on climate change.

The new challenges to international peace and security are to be addressed using instruments that promote capacity-building and the strengthening of national institutions. That kind of cooperative focus will inevitably be more effective and have more

sustainable results than attempts to punish, isolate or repress. Assistance and cooperation, rather than coercion, must be our watchwords.

Ms. Londoño (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of my delegation, I thank the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his presence and his opening statement, which raise the profile of today's debate.

I should also like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's debate, which provides an appropriate forum in which to express our views on this issue. I am grateful for the presence here today of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Yury Fedotov; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. António Guterres; and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Ms. Margaret Chan.

When we address the issue of threats to peace and security, as this Council has done over the years, we refer to threats both old and new. There are multiple challenges on the global agenda, but not all negative global phenomena are, in and of themselves, threats to peace and security.

To speak of new challenges to international peace and security is to enter a wide-ranging and vague territory. There are several sources of instability in the economic, social, humanitarian and environmental spheres that may exacerbate existing threats and that may have a greater impact on situations involving weak institutions or in conflict and/or post-conflict settings. It is worth remembering that the *World Development Report 2011* notes that institutional legitimacy is the key to stability and that, without it, the likelihood of conflict may increase.

In that context, we must acknowledge that the global agenda is complex and multifaceted, and that it occasionally creates problems that affect the conditions for international peace and security. The latter does not mean that the Council should address all of the issues on the global agenda, which would lead to "growing securitization".

The United Nations system has identified specific areas for action. As part of efforts to address the range of global problems, the international community has built a specialized and distinct architecture, which has its own areas of competence. Under that framework, the organs, agencies and entities created over the past few decades must work together with a view to protecting the common interests of humankind.

As part of its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council, while dealing with the requirements of collective security, carries out and must carry out the important work of promoting substantive initiatives to prevent and peacefully resolve conflicts. In addition, the Council has recognized that building sustainable peace requires an integrated approach that enhances coherent action in the political, security, development and human rights areas and that promotes the rule of law.

As part of a consistent approach and in the scope of the issues under its consideration, the Council plays an important role in supporting efforts to strengthen the rule of law and in building national capacities to ensure continuity in the functioning of institutions and in the provision of services during the transition and peacebuilding processes.

A logical approach would be to channel the Council's work in two non-exclusive but rather complementary directions. First, it is possible to build transparent institutional bridges among the various international entities and organizations. In that way, each will be able to develop its own goals and, at the same time, the bridges will create the synergies needed for information to flow properly among them and ensure that all can provide and receive adequate feedback. That is a topic of crucial importance in discussions on United Nations reform. In some cases, this involves structural mechanisms. In others, it involves procedural matters that we should discuss.

The new challenges, as they are known, have their own mechanisms and forums in other United Nations entities and even outside the system. The Council's analysis of those so-called new challenges makes sense only when, in certain cases and under specific circumstances, those challenges may exacerbate existing threats in situations being considered by the Council, or when the Council is carrying out a strategic analysis of conflict prevention.

Secondly, we must remember that the Security Council's functions are defined in the Charter. In recent years, the Council has preferred to focus on its obligations under Chapter VII, leaving behind the very broad provisions set out in Chapter VI. In that sense, it would be worthwhile to reflect on how to strengthen

the application of Chapter VI so that Council can respond to those new challenges in the framework of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter. That would, in turn, help to identify effective cooperation mechanisms that would restore confidence and underpin dialogue in situations involving complex issues and conflicting views.

The magnitude and complexity of the global agenda requires comprehensive and coordinated action by the United Nations and the international community. In that regard, an effort should be made to highlight the work of the General Assembly and other relevant forums, given their universal and specialized nature as forums for discussion and consensus-building, to address the issues raised by the so-called new challenges.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): Let me start by thanking you, Mr. President, for bring us together to discuss these new challenges to peace and security. Many thanks also to Executive Director Fedotov, High Commissioner Guterres and Director-General Chan for their briefings today. I also welcome the Ministers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil and Colombia to our discussions.

The threats we are discussing today — illicit trafficking, climate change and pandemics — know no boundaries and cannot be tackled by one country alone. They require collective action, which the Council encourages by placing these items on its agenda and taking stock of United Nations programmes aimed at addressing them. I would like to comment briefly on each.

First, illicit trafficking of drugs, arms and, particularly, trafficking in persons is devastating, destroying lives, fuelling conflict and preying on the powerless. The criminals involved operate in increasingly complex and diversified underground markets and networks, without respect for borders, laws or basic human dignity. These networks subvert legitimate economic activities, undermine sustainable development and political stability, fuel violence and corruption and weaken the rule of law. In some areas these criminals are aiding and abetting terrorists, thus undermining effective development and governance.

We must continue to work together to deny these criminals every advantage and defeat them at every turn. We must continue to set and update international standards, pool our resources and expertise and close safe havens. We are already on the right track. The United Nations provides critical assistance to States for implementation of the three United Nations drug control conventions that form the backbone of our common approach.

In 2009 the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly adopted an action plan to counter the world drug problem. International organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) are essential in the fight transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. Member States can rely on the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Tracing Instrument to deal with the issue of small arms and light weapons. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, together with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime form the primary international framework and are essential to counter trafficking in persons.

The United States continues to do its part. In 2010 we contributed $34 million to support UNODC's programmes for treaty implementation support. In the past year we have announced three initiatives to combat transnational threats: the Central American Citizen Security Partnership, the West Africa Cooperative Security Initiative, and the Central Asian Counternarcotics Initiative. We are committed to working with UNODC and with other nations to deny safe havens to transnational crime and to provide an environment where laws can be enforced, rights are protected and sustainable development and business can proceed.

I turn now to climate change. This Council held a debate last July and heard Member States' deep concerns that climate change will be a threat multiplier, exacerbating existing challenges and vulnerabilities. Climate change has the potential to reduce the availability of food and water, threaten biodiversity, raise sea levels and disrupt weather patterns, exposing all of us to greater risk. Many regions of the world will be vulnerable to more intense and longer droughts, putting lives and livelihoods in peril. This is a particular concern where poverty or conflict already strains the capacity of communities to cope. Small and

low-lying island States have real concerns about erosion and land loss due to sea-level rise.

As our understanding of the effects of climate change on security evolves, including the risk of displacement and migration, we recognize the need for more collaborative analysis and action. We believe the Security Council should remain open to continuing to consider this issue.

The United States reaffirms the important role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in facilitating an urgent response by all countries to address the challenge of climate change. We are committed to working with all countries to achieve a balanced and comprehensive outcome at the Framework Convention negotiations in Durban next month.

Finally, our interconnections are especially evident in global health. New infectious disease threats such as the severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, and H5N1 avian influenza have emerged. Nearly eradicated diseases such as polio have returned. Infectious diseases pay no heed to international borders. A threat that emerges in one country can quickly spread across the globe and can be addressed only through collective action. The international community's response to the H5N1 outbreak — including sharing of information, expertise, medicines and vaccines — was unprecedented and led to significantly improved animal health surveillance and response capacities around the world.

We all faced the challenge squarely, both in capitals and in national forums. Now we must maintain momentum to ensure that those systems are regularized, not only to keep the H5N1 virus in check but also to protect ourselves from the next pandemic threat that emerges.

The United States actively supports several initiatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) that build on the lessons learned, including the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework and the 2005 International Health Regulations. We recently concluded a memorandum of understanding with WHO to strengthen collaboration in global health security. We continue to work with partner countries to improve their own public health surveillance, preparedness and capacities for response.

Transnational threats are relevant to the Council's core responsibilities. The Security Council of the twenty-first century must continue to work to anticipate potential threats and be part of broader efforts to intensify collaboration across the system. We look forward to working with fellow Council members to find ways to be better informed, including by opening dialogue with institutions such as the WHO that do not deal with conventional security threats but which are on the front line in facing these new dangers.

It is also important to be open to greater engagement with other parts of the United Nations system and to encourage United Nations agencies to work more closely together to anticipate and manage unconventional threats.

Finally, these issues remind us of the importance of a more traditional priority for us: the need to build State capacity. For example, post-conflict countries already struggling to rebuild infrastructure, strengthen institutions and consolidate peace are especially vulnerable to some of the stresses generated by transnational threats. Climate change will demand stronger and more resilient institutional capacities for development and for disaster prevention and response. Emerging infectious diseases require stronger public health systems. Village clinics will often be the first to observe emergent diseases and need to be able to respond swiftly and in cooperation with wider international capacities to manage infectious disease. Trafficking networks thrive where State institutions are fragile and interdiction capacities are limited.

New challenges to security will be an important part of our Council's work in the future. Today's debate is a step in the right direction, and we thank Portugal for its initiative.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): I want to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this seminal meeting to undertake a strategic review of emerging challenges to international security. I am grateful to the Secretary-General for his statement. I also thank Mr. Fedotov, Ms. Chan and Mr. Guterres, whose incisive contributions have immensely enriched today's discussions.

The nature and content of international security have continued to evolve and expand over the years. Today they encompass a variety of interconnected issues in the world that have an impact on survival. They range from traditional or conventional modes of

military power, the causes and consequences of war between States and economic strength to ethnic, religious and ideological conflicts, trade and economic conflicts, energy supplies, technology, food and threats to human security. Such issues have evolved to include threats to the stability of States from environmental degradation, from infectious diseases, from climate change and from the activities of non-State actors. Our evolving international security landscape is marked by multiple threats that have no boundaries and respect neither borders nor nationalities. This certainly includes the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the illicit trade in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, drug and human trafficking, as well as the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

Since ours is a world of extreme inequality, deprivation, marginalization and exclusion, those problems are compounded by systemic issues, such as underdevelopment, pressure on natural resources and difficulties related to social cohesion and governance. The spread and nature of conflicts and their spillover have, in their turn, reshaped the international security paradigm.

Those complex challenges call for vision, creativity, commitment and leadership from the United Nations and Member States. The Council should consider repositioning itself to deal with the evolving nature of international security. The interconnected nature of security and development underlies the theme of today's meeting. Appreciating the threat caused by environmental degradation, illicit trafficking and HIV/AIDS and other global pandemics entails recognition of the fact that developing societies are more vulnerable to insecurity brought about or exacerbated by that underdevelopment itself.

In effect, there is a chilling symbiosis between conflict and underdevelopment. We live in the era of environmental refugees. The changing climate has a direct impact on agricultural productivity, animal health and access to clean water. The resulting food insecurity has in many countries forced communities to become nomadic in search of an environment that can sustain them and their livelihoods. In many cases, people walk across borders, concentrating the pressure on already scarce resources in a bid for survival. Such environmental challenges are magnified by political instability and insecurity. There is a clear and substantive overlap between our efforts to target criminals and our efforts to better protect their victims. The recent signing of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) marks a major shift in the approach to addressing the threat posed by human and arms trafficking. We welcome that development. The illicit trafficking of people and weapons constitutes an affront to the dignity and autonomy of the person. The criminal networks responsible are far-reaching, well-funded and well-connected, yet they can be broken down.

There must be a collective effort to address both the magnitude and the transnational nature of those emerging challenges. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon actually observed in a message to the second International Meeting of High Representatives on Security Issues in September of this year, "No single country can address transnational threats on its own; only joint efforts at local, national, regional and international levels will suffice ". That is why we must cooperate more effectively with our partner organs within the United Nations to delineate a concerted, comprehensive response, one that supports States in their efforts to head off emerging challenges to maintaining peace and stability in an increasingly changing world. We would accordingly welcome serious consideration of an ad hoc working group to monitor those emerging challenges and assist the Council it its response.

Our international efforts must also be replicated at the national level. With an appropriate level of political commitment and support from the international community, States can prepare themselves for and guard against those threats to security, both from within and from without their borders. The threats that we now face are globalized, and their human agents are getting more sophisticated. We cannot allow our collective response to be outpaced.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your timely initiative in convening today's briefing and debate on new security challenges. We welcome the presence of His Excellency Mr. Paulo Sacadura Cabral Portas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal. Let me also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing, as well as Mr. Yuri Fedotov, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. António Guterres, the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees, and Ms. Margaret Chan, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, for their insightful briefings.

Germany firmly believes that managing and resolving threats to international security without understanding their underlying causes and dynamics can at best lead only to temporary solutions. Our world is at the beginning of this new century facing a whole array of tremendous new challenges. Among them are poverty, infectious diseases, transnational organized crime and climate change, just to name a few. This Council recognized the challenges of climate change on security when, under the German presidency in the month of July, it adopted a substantial and forward-looking presidential statement (S/PRST/2011/15) on that issue. Today's debate is an excellent opportunity to take a systematic look at those diverse threats and challenges.

Let me briefly elaborate on three areas that deserve particular attention. First on the list is health. Since the first discussion of the linkages between HIV/AIDS and international peace and security over a decade ago, the Security Council has come a long way, having recently adopted resolution 1983 (2011) on that issue. Today, it is widely acknowledged that conflict situations can aggravate health problems and that vulnerable populations, such as refugees or children in an armed conflict, face higher health risks. At the same time, we know that the spread of epidemics such as HIV/AIDS can fuel conflicts by weakening the capacities of national Governments and by destroying existing social structures.

We would therefore like to encourage donors, United Nations agencies and affected States to further integrate health into stabilization and rehabilitation programmes and to promote innovative models of cooperation. One such model is the Debt2Health initiative launched jointly by the Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the German Government in 2007. By redirecting funds from debt repayments towards life-saving investments in health, Debt2Health has improved public health systems and strengthened partnership, including with conflict-affected countries. Besides significantly decreasing health-related root causes of conflict, there is also a need to highlight the importance of addressing health issues in the aftermath of conflict. The physical and psychological consequences of violence, including sexual violence, often constitute a heavy burden for stabilization, reconstruction and development in post-conflict societies. Mainstreaming health issues into peace-building activities therefore remains a key challenge that is often overlooked.

My second point concerns the interrelationship between climate change, migration and security. In some regions of our planet, climate change-induced migration is a reality already today. People are migrating because their traditional homes are under threat by a rising sea level, by increasing drought and desertification, and by the increasingly destructive power of natural disasters.

Climate change will hardly be the only factor in a crisis. The terrible famine in the Horn of Africa is an example of that.

We have to acknowledge that despite our ongoing efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change — and the seventeenth United Nations Climate Change Conference is beginning in Durban five days from now — migration has already become an adaptation strategy for people affected by climate change. The number of affected people within and across borders will clearly rise, potentially leading to insecurity and conflict, in addition to the personal plight of millions of people.

Germany very much supports the approach that UNHCR is taking in this regard. We need more research into and better understanding of migration processes. We must be guided by the fundamental principles of human dignity, human rights and international cooperation. The international community may also need to look more closely into the adequacy and appropriateness of the legal and political instruments at hand, a complex task for all of us. We will also have to look more closely into the security implications of migration, which will require a comprehensive approach, including on the part of the Security Council within its work on new and emerging security threats.

With a view to Durban, let me add that the worst case is not inevitable, and mitigation remains key in this regard.

My third point concerns transnational organized crime. The composition and operational methods of transnational organized criminal groups have become more sophisticated in recent years, and their activities continue to pose a significant threat to international

peace and security. The seriousness of the problem lies in the global penetration achieved by such organizations and in the threat they pose to democracy and legitimate economic development. These problems are compounded by the fact that in many cases the capacity of States to establish the rule of law is weakened by corruption, weak judicial systems and a lack of effective policing capacity.

The scale of the challenge requires a coordinated response from the international community. In that context, we regard the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime — the Palermo Convention — as one of the crucial instruments for enhancing international cooperation in combating organized crime, and we would like to seize the opportunity to appeal to all States that have not yet done so to ratify it as soon as possible.

In 2011 alone my country has contributed around $7 million to projects implemented by UNODC in the area of combating organized crime and drug trafficking, and we intend to continue our financial support for such projects. As a good example of such successful cooperation, I would like to mention the Global Container Control Programme, jointly conducted by UNODC and the World Customs Organization. This Programme is aimed at building capacity through training.

Let us not forget that prevention is key to countering today's threats. We as Member States must build up our own capacities and help others to do the same in order to exercise our sovereignty responsibly, deal with internal dangers before they threaten others, and act collectively with other States to meet threats on a global scale.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon): I would like to thank you for convening this important meeting, Mr. President, and for honouring us with your presence. Allow me also to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing and Mr. Fedotov, Mr. Guterres and Ms. Chan for their statements.

According to the Charter, our Organization was founded to maintain international peace and security, and to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace. The meaning of security can no longer be linked to the absence of military threats. We are now exposed to an array of additional areas in which security risks manifest themselves.

Indeed, in recent decades the Security Council has been preoccupied with and has held various deliberations about a wide range of issues that might potentially constitute a threat to peace and security, such as drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, terrorism, HIV/AIDS, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the adverse effects of climate change and so forth. Countries under stress and emerging from conflict are particularly vulnerable to such challenges, which too often fuel and prolong existing conflicts and pose threats to peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict States.

In fact, risks that transcend boundaries — for example, pandemics and transnational crime networks — are not new. However, the dimensions of the threat they may constitute are novel and changing in the increasingly globalized world we live in. Consequently, our response should be collective and adaptable to such evolving circumstances and challenges.

Moreover, issues such as the proliferation of arms, piracy, mass migration and organized crime are complex and multifaceted. They carry much weight in their implications for both human and political development, on the one hand, and for peace and stability, on the other. They therefore require a multilateral approach in the security realm and beyond.

Perhaps the only truly effective way forward is through increased cooperation, greater preparedness and creative diplomacy that is preventive in nature. No single United Nations body or agency, no single country or regional organization has either the capacity or the jurisdictional reach to effectively address such contemporary challenges, including their security dimensions. That is why strong partnerships among all major international, regional and local stakeholders are necessary to meet them, and that is why the Security Council should be prepared to address their potential security dimensions and effects. We also believe that development and national capacity-building should be cornerstones in any comprehensive approach or strategic framework designed to address security challenges.

Finally, our Council is constantly facing the challenge of finding innovative ways to tackle major economic, political and social challenges having security dimensions that lie ahead. That is our moral responsibility towards present and future generations.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful for the statement of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. We thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Yury Fedotov, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Ms. Margaret Chan, for their reports on the work of the entities they head.

Our discussion today shows that the number of threats facing humanity as we step across the threshold of the second decade of the twenty-first century has not diminished; quite the contrary. Along with the emergence of new threats, the old ones have worsened. Recently the trend towards aggressive interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States has increased. The complex processes occurring in some of these States and the conflicts that sometimes result require the establishment of a dialogue between the authorities and the opposition, with the participation of all civic and political groups, based on a refusal to use any form of violence and with the aim of achieving political and economic reform.

For that it would be useful to have the support of the international community and regional organizations. We sometimes see an arbitrary and detached treatment of the concept of legitimacy, provocative calls for further confrontation, and open or veiled threats of the use of force in the guise of humanitarian slogans. The path to intervention leads to chaos in various regions and in international relations in general.

All the above contradict the basic norms and principles of modern international law, the United Nations Charter and the very essence of the work of our global organization.

We recognize the evolving nature of new challenges to international peace and security. We see increasingly closer and persistent links among the various kinds of transnational crime, in particular terrorism and drug trafficking. That list includes the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, piracy, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and cybercrime.

The true danger of those threats and challenges is recognized by the Council, but we need additional analysis of their links, which have driven the threat to a new and increasingly dangerous level. Indeed, that is how we see the Council's future work on the issue, bearing in mind its responsibility under the Charter to maintain international peace and security.

The basis for that work is set out in a number of the Council's earlier decisions, in particular the presidential statement of 24 February 2010 (S/PRST/2010/4). We reiterate the special relevance of that statement and the Council's invitation in it to the Secretary-General to consider the interconnected threat of drug trafficking and transnational organized crime as a factor in conflict analysis and in the assessment and planning of integrated missions, as well as in analyzing the role of those threats in situations on the Council's agenda.

Such challenges are increasingly prominent, in particular with regard to the drug threat from Afghanistan, which remains extremely serious. The devastating influence of Afghan drug trafficking, exacerbated by terrorism, extends far beyond the region. Here we are dealing with a threat to international peace and stability brought about through the interconnection among various kinds of criminal activity. The response to such a threat must be comprehensive and coordinated, including through the adoption a system-wide United Nations track on new challenges.

In that context, we positively assess the steps already taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen interdepartmental cooperation within the United Nations, including the establishment of a multidisciplinary task force of the Secretariat on transnational crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability, led by UNODC and the Department of Political Affairs.

The new threats are creating illegal arms flows in various parts of the world. We note that phenomenon in the example of Libyan arms. It would be particularly dangerous if those weapons were to fall into the hands of terrorists. At Russia's initiative, the Council adopted resolution 2017 (2011). It conveyed the required message and designates the necessary frameworks to counter that new threat.

In an era of globalization, a negative aspect of information and communications technology developments is the growing new threats from cybercrime. Russia advocates adopting more effective measures to regulate the use of such technologies and the Internet, while maintaining the appropriate

freedoms. The Council has already expressed its concern about increasing cybercrime. We believe that a universal convention on cooperation to combat information crime and cybercrime and on rules for a code of conduct in cyberspace must now be developed.

We look forward to supporting initiatives and agreements of Member States in that area through UNODC and other structures of the Secretariat task force on implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular the Working Group on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes.

Another new threat is piracy off the coast of Somalia, a well-organized and profitable business. Piracy is now spreading to the western shores of the African continent. Combating that phenomenon requires serious and comprehensive measures by the international community. For Russia, an important aspect of that fight is putting an end to impunity for the pirates, at the level not only of perpetrators but also of their industry bosses. We will continue to strengthen our efforts on that issue.

With respect to climate change and diseases, the United Nations structure that has developed to consider such issues allows us to provide a appropriate response to growing threats in that area. We are convinced that the priority role here belongs and should belong, first and foremost, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the World Health Organization as the universal mechanisms to counter global threats in those areas. Those bodies have the necessary and adequate machinery to develop effective and long-term strategies for international cooperation, as well as concrete measures for a prompt response.

Mr. Mashabane (South Africa): My delegation expresses its sincere appreciation to the Portuguese presidency for having organized this high-level briefing. We welcome His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal and thank him for presiding over this debate. My delegation also welcomes the participation in this meeting of the Secretary-General, and we thank him for his statement. We also thank the various briefers who have briefed this meeting. We also acknowledge the presence of the high-level representatives present at this meeting.

In five days, South Africa will welcome thousands of delegates to the shores of Durban as the incoming President of the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

The global awareness of the threat caused by human-induced climate change on our planet and civilization began in the late 1970s, culminating in the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which entered into force in 1994.

While there continues to be debate on the suitability of the Security Council as a platform to address new and emerging issues, such as climate change, South Africa believes that the Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol remain the best instruments to deal with the broader challenges of climate change. My delegation therefore reiterates its principled view that climate change threatens not only development prospects and the achievement of sustainable development, but also the very existence and survival of societies.

Of critical importance, therefore, is the need for all countries to honour the obligations under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol if we are to effectively deal with the challenges precipitated by climate change, in accordance with the fundamental principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The contribution that individual members of the Security Council can make to the UNFCCC processes is to ensure that the architecture of the climate change regime is strengthened, not fragmented.

The Durban conference, with its theme "Working Together: Saving Tomorrow Today", provides the international community an opportunity to demonstrate real leadership in finding effective solutions to the threat that climate change presents to the livelihood, quality of life, dignity and, in many cases, the very survival of millions across the globe. South Africa is of the strong view that the Durban conference will provide a platform from which the strengthening of the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention beyond 2010, through a comprehensive, multilateral and rules-based system on climate change, enforceable and equally binding on all, can be achieved.

A second commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol for developed countries is essential. No gap between the first and the second commitment periods

must occur. For those developed countries that are not party to the Kyoto Protocol and for those that reject a second commitment period, comparable and measurable mitigation commitments must be implemented and must be equally enforceable. On the other hand, developing countries must implement their declared mitigation actions, assisted through the necessary support in a measurable and transparent manner. Making the Cancun mechanism and institutions fully operational and honouring the financial undertakings already made are again part of that delicate balance.

Turning to drugs and crime, we are of the view that drugs and crime threaten development, create instability and jeopardize the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In acknowledging the challenge of drugs and crime, the international community adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. We call upon Member States to implement that Convention and other relevant international conventions. International cooperation, including bilateral and regional treaties on extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters, are key tools in fighting organized crime.

In that regard, we need a comprehensive and integrated approach that strengthens coordination among the countries of origin, transit and destination. South Africa welcomes the role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the creation of the regional programmes. Those programmes are important, as they assist countries with technical support in their fight against the world drug problem and strengthen the partnership between the UNODC, regional bodies and Member States. In this regard, we welcome the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the UNODC and the Commission of the African Union under which the two organizations work towards complementarity of their activities.

The international community has made great strides in dealing with the issue of HIV/AIDS, but much remains to be done. That was clearly articulated in the Political Declaration (General Assembly resolution 65/277) adopted by the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, held from 8 to 10 June 2011. The Meeting confirmed and adopted meaningful and forward-looking commitments aimed at guiding and intensifying the global response to HIV/AIDS. That will include, among other things, resource mobilization for the AIDS response, strengthening health-care systems and integrating HIV/AIDS into broader health and development. This comprehensive recommitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS addresses the epidemic from all possible perspectives, which requires the involvement and participation of the widest possible range of stakeholders and Member States.

It is the view of South Africa that the response to HIV/AIDS can best be dealt with by the United Nations system and structures that allow for unrestricted participation by all Member States. South Africa is of the view that HIV/AIDS per se does not constitute and has not been proved in the past eight years to be a threat or a new challenge to international peace and security.

Turning to the issue of refugees, we call on the international community once again to address the root causes of people fleeing their countries. We must therefore find comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and realize durable solutions for them. South Africa has an unwavering and steadfast commitment to the protection of refugees as described in international conventions and protocols.

In conclusion, my delegation firmly believes that no amount of debate or statements and declarations by the Council will address what we call today emerging threats. What is needed is to deliver on the commitments agreed upon in the various organs and platforms of the United Nations. International cooperation, financial resource mobilization and technological investment is what is required to address the global challenges facing our common humanity that we seek to address today.

Mr. Messone (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): We should like to thank you, Sir, for presiding over our work and for the fresh opportunity that your country has afforded the Council to debate the issue of new challenges to international peace and security. I welcome the participation in our discussions of Their Excellencies the Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil and Colombia.

We wish also to thank the briefers — Mr. Fedotov, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); High Commissioner António Guterres; Director-General Margaret Chan; and the Secretary-General — for their contributions to this debate.

In recent years the Council has held several debates that enabled it to take stock of these new challenges to international peace and security. As a result, it was able to identify the factors that intensify such challenges and the real risks arising from them. Those challenges include an increase in international drug trafficking and a resurgence of transnational organized crime, which contribute to the destabilization of States and the undermining of post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

The proliferation and illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons heighten this threat, intensifying insecurity for the civilian population. These weapons have become a principal instrument in conflicts, worsening their impact and prolonging them.

There are two other challenges of concern to us. The first is the increasingly evident relationship between the HIV/AIDS pandemic and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. We would recall that the President of the Gabonese Republic chaired the Council meeting (see S/PV.6547) leading to the adoption of resolution 1983 (2011) on this issue.

Gabon is also concerned at the potential implications of climate change for international stability and security in the economic, social and environmental areas as well as for movements of refugees and persons displaced both within and beyond the borders of their country. Gabon is hopeful that the United Nations Climate Change Conference, to be held in Durban, will provide an opportunity to make headway on the issue of the impact of climate change.

In the face of these challenges, we are all in agreement that we need a comprehensive, agreed approach that is based on the multidimensional and interdependent character of the new threats. It is important that the United Nations address these issues in an open manner, and in that respect the Council must take a forward-looking approach.

In that connection, Gabon made its contribution to the work of the Council by holding, during its two presidencies of the Council, in March 2010 and June 2011, two debates and a briefing on, respectively, the illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on peace and security, as I mentioned earlier, and the issue of trafficking in drugs and transnational organized crime. France, Germany and Burkina Faso also placed particular emphasis on these challenges during their presidency of the Council in previous years.

Given the concerns that we have just voiced, it is important that the Secretary-General continue to keep the Council informed about developments relating to these new challenges and make recommendations on the best ways of addressing them. The Council must also have its own tools for dealing with these new challenges. In that context, Gabon supports the establishment of an ad hoc working group charged with looking at the interdependence of those challenges and make concrete recommendations in order to provide the Council with better guidance in those areas.

The Security Council must explore new avenues aimed at improving its cooperation with the United Nations agencies, programmes and funds that deal with such matters, as well as with regional and subregional organizations. These two aspects of cooperation are major underpinnings of the Council's central role in the process of the prevention and long-term resolution of conflicts.

In closing, let me say that the maintenance of international peace and security is an immense task that the Council cannot shoulder alone. The new global geopolitical context requires the creation of new synergies in the areas of cooperation and solidarity so as to provide a comprehensive response to the emergence of these new threats to international peace and security.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): In following my Gabonese colleague, I will extend this French-speaking oasis. That is not to say, however, that everything else is desert.

First of all, I should like to thank all those who have spoken for their briefings, and I welcome the initiative of the Portuguese presidency.

Since the February 2010 debate on cross-cutting threats (see S/PV.6277), which my country proposed, some progress has been made in addressing those issues in the Council. I am thinking in particular of resolution 1983 (2011) on security and AIDS, on the debate organized by Gabon on drug trafficking and organized transnational crime (see S/PV.6565), and on the debate organized by Germany on climate change (see S/PV.6587). Those advances are a sign of the Council's interest in these issues. It is indeed our

responsibility to anticipate the consequences of those new threats for international peace and security.

I thank the director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for his briefing. By undermining States' capacities for governance and economic development, illicit trafficking and organized crime weaken State structures and destabilize entire regions. The Council has witnessed this for itself with respect to Haiti, Afghanistan and Guinea-Bissau. Particular attention should already be focused on the Sahel region in view of the worsening security situation in that area, which has been infected by multiple forms of trafficking. It is time for us to develop a Sahelian strategy.

The regional programmes of the UNODC effectively contribute to the comprehensive, joint and integrated approach that the Council hopes will prevent conflicts, as the statements made earlier by my colleagues indicate. France, for its part, is actively promoting such a strategy. The Group of Eight meetings on cocaine and the Paris Pact of early 2012 fall within the framework outlined by the Council through a series of decisions. Further, my country calls for the universalization of the Palermo Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and of other instruments to combat drugs and psychotropic substances.

I also wish to thank the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). The fight against natural and accidental risks and against threats requires common action to strengthen all stages of monitoring and alert systems, rapid response preparation and health crisis management.

Over the course of the past decade, we have made outstanding progress in preparing for and preventing the risk of pandemics. Eleven years ago, resolution 1308 (2000) recognized that the AIDS pandemic was a threat to international peace and security. Last June, we noted the degree to which AIDS constitutes a handicap to stabilization in post-conflict situations, above all because the pandemic affects women first and foremost in their fundamental role in the reconstruction phase. The Council has also called for concerted effort against the spread of AIDS during conflict due to the rise in sexual violence as a weapon of war.

The WHO remains the lead manager for health security in crisis situations, above all in times of conflict or in their aftermath. The WHO should also pursue its monitoring of the risk of epidemics and pandemics by relying on the network of contact points it has established, and it should oversee the revised International Health Regulations, which have been legally binding on all Member States since they entered into force in 2007. The Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework approved last May by the World Health Assembly could be used to advantage for other kinds of epidemics.

Finally, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reminded us today, the displacement of populations is the result of complex causes and should claim a greater share of the Council's attention. The situation of refugees and displaced persons as a result of conflicts can serve as a deterrent to the re-establishment of stability. Climate change, which is one of many factors that influence the decision to migrate, should be taken into greater account in conflict prevention.

In a more general sense, as July's debate reminded us, the threat of climate change concerns us all. It affects small island States, food security, water resources and the viability of coastal regions. My country wishes and hopes that the Durban Conference will give an operational content to the agreements negotiated at Cancún, so that the international community can prove that it is capable of combating threats while there is still time.

France hopes that the Council will remain invested in these issues, which place international peace and security in mortal peril and have consequences on our work. France believes that the Council should discuss these questions in a regular and systematic fashion.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I would like to thank you, Sir, for the opportunity today to take stock of the recent debates and discussions on new challenges to international peace and security. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his introduction and António Guterres, Margaret Chan and Yury Fedotov for their informative briefings.

The Security Council is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. In recent years, it has become a common and a just refrain in this Council to emphasize the importance of effective conflict prevention. Prevention should be considered a key element of the Council's work. We

believe it is natural, therefore, for the Council to tackle cross-cutting challenges such as those put forward for today's discussion. All three issues — matters related to international peace and security — are drivers of the kinds of political, economic or social changes that can generate modern conflict. All three issues have the capacity to convert existing tensions or pressures into instability or violence. As Mr. Guterres pointed out, Somalia is a compelling proof of that.

Our understanding of conflict has evolved over time. We have developed a more sophisticated appreciation of the relationship between security, development and inequality, for example. As the frequency of international conflict has diminished, so this Council has found itself occupied more often by intra-State conflict. We have taken on peacebuilding. We have placed the protection of civilians under imminent threat at the centre of many peacekeeping operations.

As we become more confident in our conflict prevention role, we have begun to develop a more subtle appreciation of factors that may indicate the potential for conflict or that may exacerbate existing conflict. It follows, then, that this Council should be alert and responsive to the broader factors that contribute to conflict sensitivity in a region. That does not mean that the United Kingdom believes that the Security Council should itself take action to address all those factors. We are not seeking to disrupt the balance between the various agencies, funds and programmes that together make up the infrastructure of the United Nations.

We know that today's discussion makes some people uneasy. Although today's debate wisely refers to "challenges", all too often our debate revolves around the word "threat" and its connotations. The word "threat" evokes Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which in itself provides the means for the Security Council to take action through economic sanctions, travel bans and even military intervention. But the use of the word "threat" in the context of today's debate is not in anyone's interests. We could just as well consider issues such as pandemics, transnational organized crime, migration and the adverse effect of climate change as factors that could lead to disputes or that could likely exacerbate friction — the language of Chapter VI and the pacific settlement of disputes.

The point is the same. The Security Council should be apprised of the extent to which those issues represent conflict risks. We should be aware as we scan the horizon that cross-cutting themes may offer insights into the potential for conflict. Many argue that the dramatic events of the Arab Spring this year were not predicted, but a series of United Nations Development Programme human development reports did indeed identify many of the underlying socio-economic factors that led to the uprising. The Council would perhaps have been better prepared to respond to the Arab spring if it had focused on those factors at an earlier stage.

Taking one of the three factors dealt with in today's debate, the United Kingdom believes that insecurity and conflict can be exacerbated by climate change factors such as drought, famine and desertification. It is not hard to see how international agreements on the shared use of natural resources may be disrupted by the adverse effects of climate change. So we believe that it makes sense for those responsible for helping Member States to strike agreements on resource-sharing to have regular access to advice from climate specialists to ensure that they take account of such risks.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) has accessed outside expertise on climate change for precisely that reason. But let us be clear. We are not arguing that the UNRCCA should have a mandate to tackle climate change. We are not suggesting that the UNRCCA should lobby for changes to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We are not even suggesting that the UNRCCA should have the mandate to hire a climate specialist. We are merely suggesting that it should have access to that expertise, when necessary, to develop its own work.

We think that it is sensible for the Security Council, charged as it is with the responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to have the opportunity to consider cross-cutting pressures on international stability and thematic issues that might contribute to regional fragility or increased sensitivity to conflict or escalation in violence. That is an important tool for effective conflict prevention.

Over the course of the past several years, we have continually emphasized the need for the Council to be able to conduct more effective conflict prevention. We

need, then, to be free from time to time to scan the horizon for potential disputes, frictions or threats on the basis of evidence from experts in thematic issues, such as those briefing the Council today, and not just in response to an eruption in violence.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): Allow me at the outset to express our appreciation to you, Sir, and your delegation for organizing today's meeting.

We also offer our thanks to the Secretary-General; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. António Guterres; the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Ms. Margaret Chan; and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Yury Fedotov. I also note with appreciation the presence of Ministers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil and Colombia.

The United Nations was established in the aftermath of the chaos created by the two world wars, with the avowed aim of saving "succeeding generations from the scourge of war". In 1945, the international community decided to entrust the Security Council with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The United Nations Charter itself prescribed the trigger mechanism for collective action by the Security Council. The departure point for such action is contained in Article 39, which states that the Council "shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression". In other words, the fundamental preoccupation of the Security Council was the management of war and peace essentially within the paradigm of inter-State relations.

The United Nations Charter was signed 66 years ago. Like all living documents, the Charter provides circumscribing limits, but encourages Member States to undertake sufficient innovations to deal with emerging situations. The evolution of the United Nations peacekeeping agenda and its transformation over the years in response to the changing international environment are testimony to the Organization's versatility.

Peacekeeping has fleshed out the essence of multilateralism by pooling the resources of the many for the benefit of the whole. The fact that, in time, United Nations peacekeepers found their mandates expanding to include protection agendas in intra-State conflicts only speaks volumes of their utility and resilience. While such roles are critically important, they do not and cannot detract from the fact that the essential function of the Council is to address matters of imminent threat to international peace and security.

Mr. President, your delegation has circulated a concept note in preparation of this meeting (S/2011/698, annex). The note lists several areas of possible threats to the maintenance of international peace and security. One of the areas mentioned is climate change and the possible impacts of migration on peace and security. The United Nations has a Framework Convention with a toolbox of ways and means of addressing climate change, none of which is available to the Security Council. In fact, the real requirement for addressing climate change is rooted in the need for collaboration and not through the imposition of punitive measures. That, in and of itself, makes it imperative that discussions on climate change be carried out where the necessary wherewithal rests. In fact, major negotiations have been under way for several years under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and we should not seek to either duplicate or in any way detract from them. Another area mentioned is that of global pandemics. Those, too, like climate change, demand collaborative approaches and not finger-pointing or punitive action.

The sad reality, however, is that we, as the international community, have shown little appetite for collaboration and sharing. Instead, not only are we unwilling to share the benefits of technological developments, such as drugs at affordable prices, but we have also seen hindrances being placed on developing countries sharing their own know-how and products among themselves.

It is imperative that the Council remain strong in its fight against terrorism. Transnational organized crime and its veritable nexus with drug, human and arms trafficking are well established. Their strong operational linkages with terrorists groups have become symbiotic in nature. Terrorist financing, illicit money-laundering and illegal arms sales remain intertwined in a complex web of toxic relationships. Further, the risk of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists presents a grave security challenge to the international community. Another area in which we need to be extremely careful involves the possibilities that emanate from the misuse of

cyberspace and related technologies by terrorists and their supporters.

In recent months, we have seen concerted attempts to enlarge the scope of work and responsibility of the Security Council. We do not favour this discordant trend, as a matter both of propriety and of pragmatism. The United Nations Charter gives clear responsibility to the Security Council on matters of international peace and security, but makes it amply clear that issues of social and economic significance are to be dealt by the General Assembly. An unequivocal distinction between these two sets of functions has so far helped in the smooth functioning of the United Nations system. Any digression from the Charter rules is likely to create dysfunction. From the functional point of view as well, burdening the Council with an increasing number of global challenges, premised on their perceived interconnectedness with threat to peace and security, is self-defeating. It also distracts the Council from its core mandate and from attending to matters that are its primary responsibility.

More than three-fourths of the agenda of the Security Council — actually more than four-fifths — is dominated by African issues. In Africa, we now see the African Union (AU) evolving into a mature organization whose leadership is willing to take on increased responsibility for managing Africa's affairs. In addition, there are also regional groupings in Africa. The challenge before us is to learn to work in real collaboration with the AU and the regional organizations in Africa in the furtherance of peace and security on the continent. This real collaboration requires us to listen to our colleagues from Africa, to dialogue with them and to be there to assist them, as per their requirement, in resolving conflicts, and not just when it is convenient or fashionable. It also does not mean imposing our world view on them.

In this connection, it is worth noting that piracy off the coast of Somalia is a major new threat to international peace and security. The Council must encourage an enhanced degree of international cooperation to counter this threat and seriously act on the recommendations of the African Union in this regard.

Today, we live in an intensely interconnected world defined by profound changes in science and revolutions in communications, information technologies, warfare techniques and globalization. In our view, the most important challenge to international peace and security and conflict prevention is that our platform for global governance in this area, namely the Security Council, is no longer reflective of contemporary reality. A composition rooted in 1945 detracts from its abilities to fully harness the capabilities of United Nations Member States as of today and leads to its continued application of methods of coercion from an era gone by, rather than looking for newer approaches involving collaborative action.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank you, Foreign Minister Portas, for presiding over today's meeting. I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his statement, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Fedotov; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Guterres; and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Ms. Chan, for their respective briefings.

The world is undergoing deep and complicated development and change. Traditional security issues, such as conflict, wars and territorial disputes, endure, while non-traditional security issues, such as poverty, backwardness, terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, transnational organized crime and internet security issues, have also come to the fore. The two categories are often interrelated and mutually reinforcing. China therefore appreciates Portugal's initiative in convening today's meeting, which will help the international community to increase its awareness of the new challenges.

Faced with various global security threats and challenges, the international community should strengthen multilateral cooperation and respond through collective action, while adhering to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. The United Nations and the Security Council can play their due roles, pursuant to the Charter and the relevant division of labour.

In recent years, the Security Council has adopted several important resolutions on combating terrorism and preventing proliferation, which have made important contributions to promoting international cooperation, to combating terrorism and to strengthening the international system to prevent proliferation. The Security Council has also organized

thematic debates on how such issues as transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, development, HIV/AIDS and climate change affect international peace and security.

Some consensus has been reached. Transnational organized crime often intertwines with drug trafficking and terrorism. It aggravates illicit financing and arms trafficking, thereby affecting the security, stability and economic development of countries and regions in conflict. The Security Council should continue to pay attention to the issue of transnational organized crime from the perspective of prevention and conflict resolution.

In conflict and post-conflict situations, the tasks of preventing and treating HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases are particularly arduous. In that respect, the World Health Organization (WHO) has played a very important lead role in recent years. While considering the particular situations on its agenda and devising well-formulated plans for post-conflict reconstruction, security sector reform and the reintegration of former combatants, the Security Council should give due consideration to the need to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, in close cooperation with the WHO.

Climate change is a serious common challenge to all of humankind. The international community should strengthen its cooperation on the basis of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol so as to face the challenge together. China has always participated proactively and constructively in the negotiations and international cooperation on climate change, and called for climate change to be addressed in the framework of sustainable development, in accordance with the principles of fairness and common but differentiated responsibilities.

In addressing these new challenges, the various United Nations entities need to carry out their work in accordance with the mandated division of labour, their comparative advantages and the provisions of the United Nations Charter. They should maintain coordination and synergy while avoiding duplication of effort that results in differences of opinion and wasted resources.

Developing countries are constrained by their level of development and are particularly affected by the international economic and financial crisis. As a result, they face various difficulties in responding to challenges and threats. The international community should pay paramount attention to that issue and proactively provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal.

(*spoke in Portuguese; interpretation provided by the delegation*)

I am grateful for the presence of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Ambassador Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Mr. António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and Ms. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization. I also welcome the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Vice-Minister from Brazil and the Deputy Minister from Colombia.

As President, I have the privilege to speak after hearing all the other speakers. Their important remarks highlighted the relevance of the themes that we are discussing today. States and international institutions are traditionally prepared to address the classic threats to peace and security. Such threats were the core reasons for the establishment of our international institutions. The requirements of contemporary societies are ever-increasing and ever more diverse. It is therefore important for States and international institutions to monitor the ongoing evolution of societies and people's lives in order to be in tune with the driving forces of vanguard events and the spirit of our historical moment.

The series of events of the recent past — political, economic, social, cultural, technological and environmental — clearly demonstrates that we are in a new political world and a new economic reality. Many of these changes create instability and threaten international peace and security, but they also point to new responsibilities for new international and regional actors. The international community, the United Nations and the Security Council are therefore confronted with new challenges that they must face, inevitably struggle with and, ideally, prevent.

Today's meeting is an unusual debate for the Security Council. For precisely that reason, it has been

bold and innovative, and its themes connect the United Nations with the demands of contemporary societies. These new challenges have been identified, and it is now up to us to contribute to the definition of an effective collective response. Because of its universality, only the United Nations, through its various institutions and bodies, is in a position to adequately respond.

Over the past year, the Council has broached such issues as security and development, the impact of climate change on security, the consequences of transnational crime in situations of conflict, and the effect of HIV/AIDS on security. The analysis and discussion of those themes deepen and reinforce the relationship between the Council and the other organs of the United Nations and, without a doubt, also strengthen their capacity to prevent conflict. It is therefore essential to continue to develop a more integrated and systematic approach to all of those issues.

Organized crime is today one of the main sources of financing of terrorism. Transnational organized crime also facilitates the illegal exploitation of natural resources, which in itself can often be a catalyst for conflict in many parts of the world. Organized crime, which often violates the arms embargoes imposed by the Council, also has a direct impact on the Council's ability to fulfil its mandate.

All of those types of organized crime have a particularly serious impact on fragile States. In post-conflict situations, criminal violence replaces political violence and hinders efforts to re-establish and build peace and the rule of law. The situation in West Africa, where Portugal has actively participated in the fight against drug trafficking and related crimes, clearly illustrates the implications of organized crime for regional and international security.

We therefore believe that a courageous effort to craft regional and international instruments and strategies in response to transnational crime is critical to preventing conflict. On behalf of my country, I pay tribute to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for playing a crucial role in the formulation of such regional strategies and in providing support to capacity-building for national institutions responsible for fighting crime.

I will now say a few words about the issue of climate change. We are not attempting to define climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, as we all know that those issues are essentially dealt with in other forums. Instead, we must consider the specific aspects of that phenomenon, as it may have an impact on the Security Council's responsibility of maintaining international peace and security.

As the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have already mentioned, factors related to climate change, such as hunger, drought and desertification, can cause massive population movements and cruelly claim the lives of children and, in turn, adversely affect stability and the future. While such movements are not the direct catalysts of conflict, under some circumstances, they exacerbate existing tensions and prolong conflict.

In that context, we must be particularly attentive to the special situation of the most vulnerable, namely, the small island developing States, whose populations will be forced by rising sea levels to abandon their lands of origin. That is not only a humanitarian challenge, but also a challenge to the international law that underpins the work of the United Nations and this Council. What shall we do with those uprooted populations? How shall we resolve problems caused by changing borders, the creation of exclusive economic zones, the loss of citizenship rights and the inevitable identity crisis? I believe that it is impossible to stand by and silently witness the plight of those populations that risk becoming a State without a territory.

We recognize that information on the impact of those problems on international peace and security is still limited, but the trends that we have already observed justify and, I would say, call for a vigilant attitude on the part of the Security Council.

The devastating impact of the transmission of HIV is most strongly felt in conflict and post-conflict situations. Violence and instability exacerbate the spread of HIV, especially among women and girls. Some of the regions of the world with the highest rates of infection are also conflict or post-conflict regions. It is therefore not surprising that the Council's first-ever debate on a health-related issue within its purview of maintaining peace and security was on HIV and AIDS.

Integrating the fight against pandemics into the peacebuilding strategies of post-conflict countries having recently emerged from conflict is an essential measure to avoid jeopardizing the gains made in the consolidation of peace. In that regard, it is important to

strengthen international support to programmes led by United Nations agencies to fight pandemics, in particular the initiatives coordinated by the World Health Organization. It is equally important for United Nations peacekeeping missions to assist the relevant agencies in implementing such programmes. That is the only way in which the relevant organs of the United Nations will be able to concerted action.

As is so often the case, the most vulnerable to challenges are the least developed and the poorest. In a spirit of solidarity and international unity, we call for an effort to define our collective response. In contemplating those new issues, we must recall the words of a memorable figure of the Christian humanist tradition, who said that if the rich do not deal with the lives of the poor, the poor will eventually deal with the lives of the rich.

Those are not issues that the Security Council can or should deal with alone. The Council can and should, in our opinion, develop a systematic and comprehensive approach to new challenges to international peace and security. Indeed, the topics under discussion here today have been brought to the attention of the Council with increasing frequency, highlighting their relevance. The Council, however, still lacks a clear strategy on the best way to monitor those challenges on a regular basis and to identify their similarities.

We believe that the creation of a mechanism by which the Council could monitor those issues would be a step forward and provide added value. An informal working group of Council members could be set up to review new information, including from the relevant reports of the Secretary-General and of other United Nations organs and agencies. That information could serve as the foundation for better concerted, articulated, informed and effective action of the international community. We will continue working with members of the Security Council to that end, and with a view to reaching a consensus on the steps required to set up such a mechanism.

New challenges to international peace and security can lead to increased instability and insecurity. It is our duty to deepen our knowledge of those phenomena so as to ensure that they will not turn into conflicts. As the main body responsible for maintaining international peace and security, this Council must shoulder its responsibilities and lead that process.

I now resume my function as President of the Council.

I give the floor to Mr. Fedotov.

Mr. Fedotov: In the United Nations, if one has the floor, one uses it, so I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you, Mr. President, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, for having taken the initiative to convene today's meeting of the Security Council.

For me, it was very important to listen to the Council's members, whose views and opinions are quite important and relevant to the practical action of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Indeed, we do have our own governing bodies, but administratively we are part of the Secretariat and it is only natural for us to brief the Security Council as often as it so wishes. And the more we have a dialogue with the Security Council and with all the entities and Member States, the more chance we have of succeeding in our efforts to curb drug trafficking and organized crime, which are major destabilizing factors in the twenty-first century. I would like once again to thank the members of the Security Council for their support of UNODC, and, since we have in this Chamber some outstanding contributors to the UNODC budget, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and express our appreciation for their support.

The President: I thank Mr. Fedotov for his comments, and I give the floor to Mr. Guterres.

Mr. Guterres: Very briefly, I would like to thank you again, Mr. President, for this opportunity, and to say that when doing humanitarian work, we are on the receiving end of the problems we've been talking about here. We deal with their impact and with the most vulnerable. Obviously for us, not having the ability to interfere with the political dimensions, which are always part of the origin of humanitarian problems, it is very important that the international community as a whole be able to address the gaps — in governance, in political will and in operating — that lead to situations such as those we have been discussing today, and to find the best instruments and strategies for addressing them.

The President: I thank Mr. Guterres for his comments, and I give the floor to Ms. Chan.

Ms. Chan: Thank you very much for the invitation to brief the Security Council. This is the first opportunity for the World Health Organization (WHO) to do so. We are very pleased to have had this opportunity, and especially to have been able to listen to the views of the members of the Security Council and their advice.

I would like to make one point. I fully agree with the comments of many of the Council members on the importance of United Nations agencies' working together, based on their areas of core competency, to support countries and the international community in mounting a highly effective and integrated approach, as the President said, to any threat to world peace and security. The World Health Organization is not a major player in peace and security and does not deal with those issues directly, but if there is anything we can do to support the work of the Council, we would be happy to contribute. I thank you once again for this opportunity.

The President: I thank Ms. Chan for her comments.

There are no more names inscribed on my list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.